



PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 62 895	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/FR2003/003000	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 10 octobre 2003 (10.10.2003)	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 25 octobre 2002 (25.10.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC H05K 7/14		
Applicant THALES		

I. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 3 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability: citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 24 mai 2004 (24.05.2004)	Date of completion of this report 03 December 2004 (03.12.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

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International application No.

PCT/FR2003/003000

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

 the international application as originally filed the description:

pages _____ 1-8 _____ . as originally filed

pages _____ . filed with the demand

pages _____ . filed with the letter of _____

 the claims:

pages _____ . as originally filed

pages _____ . as amended (together with any statement under Article 19)

pages _____ . filed with the demand

pages _____ 1-19 _____ . filed with the letter of 27 October 2004 (27.10.2004)

 the drawings:

pages _____ 1/3-3/3 _____ . as originally filed

pages _____ . filed with the demand

pages _____ . filed with the letter of _____

 the sequence listing part of the description:

pages _____ . as originally filed

pages _____ . filed with the demand

pages _____ . filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

 the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)). the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)). the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

 contained in the international application in written form. filed together with the international application in computer readable form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form. The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished. The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of: the description. pages _____ the claims. Nos. _____ the drawings. sheets/fig _____5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

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V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-19	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-19	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-19	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

The application relates to an attach and lock device for an apparatus intended to be mounted in a rack (claim 1).

Document D2 (FR-A-2 787 282), which is considered to be the closest prior art, describes an attach and lock device for an apparatus that includes a front surface and two side members and is intended to be mounted in a rack that includes side walls along which said side members of the apparatus are inserted. Said device includes first and second attachment elements rigidly connected to said two side members of the apparatus and said side walls of the rack, respectively, with said first element being movable by means of a handle so as to engage said second element and thereby secure the apparatus inside the rack. Said device further includes a handle-locking mechanism and said handle has a grip device connected to a handle body positioned on a side member of the apparatus.

The application differs from document D1 in that the locking mechanism includes a slidable hook positioned on one of said side members adjacent to one edge of the front surface, and a compression spring. Said hook and spring are arranged in such a way that, during the locking step when the handle is rotated by the user so as to secure

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said apparatus, the handle body travels along the side member that comprises the hook, whereby the hook is caused to retract and the handle is free to pass. Once the handle has passed, the compression spring returns the hook to its position and the hook thereby acts as an abutment for said handle body.

It follows that the subject matter of claim 1 is novel
(PCT Article 33(2)).

As a result of these distinctive features, the locking mechanism engages the handle side plate and there is no need for any parts on said front surface, as is the case in D2.

The aim of the invention is therefore to propose an attach and lock system for an apparatus intended to be mounted in a rack, wherein the locking mechanism engages the side plate of said handle.

One of the other documents cited in the search report, D3 (FR 2 625 829), describes an attach and lock system for an apparatus intended to be mounted in a rack, wherein the locking mechanism engages the side plate of said handle. However, said system consists only of side springs, not a slidable hook associated with a compression spring. D1 (GB 2 015 828) discloses an attachment system for an electronic circuit board intended to be mounted in a rack, wherein the locking mechanism includes a slidable hook and a compression spring. However, said locking mechanism does not engage the side plate of said handle.

It follows that said documents do not disclose any teachings or indications that would enable a person skilled in the art to arrive at the solution proposed in

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claim 1.

As a result, an inventive step is considered to be present
(PCT Article 33(3)).

Claims 2-19 are dependent on claim 1 and fulfil the requirements of novelty and inventive step set forth in PCT Article 33(2) and 33(3).

The industrial applicability of claims 1-19 is obvious
(PCT Article 33(4)).